

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 467

By Powell

A RESOLUTION to honor Brad Gioia, headmaster at Montgomery Bell Academy.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education and learning environments for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Brad Gioia is one such estimable individual, who has distinguished himself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity in his role as headmaster at Montgomery Bell Academy (MBA) in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gioia has held the post of headmaster at MBA since 1994 and has concurrently taught English IVAP; during his tenure, the school has enjoyed tremendous achievements in academics, athletics, the arts, and annual giving; and

WHEREAS, Brad Gioia has also overseen the growth of the school's physical campus, including the transformation of the school's Harding Road campus, as well as the addition of ten acres in Sylvan Park and 150 acres in McMinnville, which is home to the school's observatory; the number of buildings under MBA's stewardship has grown from seven to thirteen; and

WHEREAS, under his astute leadership, enrollment at MBA has increased from under 500 to 834 and faculty has grown from under 100 to 155, while the school's budget has increased from \$2.8 million to \$33.6 million and its endowment has increased nearly five times the amount it was upon his arrival, from \$23 million to \$114 million; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gioia has guided MBA to national and international prominence, in part with the advent of a robust international exchange program, along with a comprehensive Wilson Grant program, which encompasses five continents and sends nearly 100 young men across the globe annually; and

WHEREAS, prior to arriving at MBA, Mr. Gioia served at Darlington School in Rome, Georgia, for eighteen years in a variety of roles, including English faculty, director of admissions and financial aid, and headmaster; and

WHEREAS, Brad Gioia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The University of the South, which later awarded him an honorary doctorate; he earned his Master of Arts degree in English from Middlebury College and his M.Ed. in administration from West Georgia College; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded leader in his profession, Mr. Gioia is a member of the International Boys' Schools Coalition, the Country Day School Headmasters Association, the Headmasters' Association, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals, as well as a founding member of the MBA International Symposium; and

WHEREAS, he was recently invited to serve with four other heads of school from around the world to form a charter school, similar to the model of the African Leadership Academy, for the best and brightest students in Slovakia; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many successes, Mr. Gioia has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Minna; children, Christopher (Liza) and Gabrielle (Travis); and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gioia has fostered a unique and strong sense of community at MBA and created a culture of support in which all boys are celebrated for excellence in academics, athletics, music, art, debate, mock trial service, theater, the arts, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, for nearly three decades, Brad Gioia has been wholly devoted to the edification and overall betterment of the thousands of young men under his charge at Montgomery Bell Academy, and it is most fitting that we honor and commend his invaluable contributions and congratulate him as he prepares to take his much-deserved retirement at the close of this school year; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Brad Gioia for his exceptional service to the students of Tennessee, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.